



BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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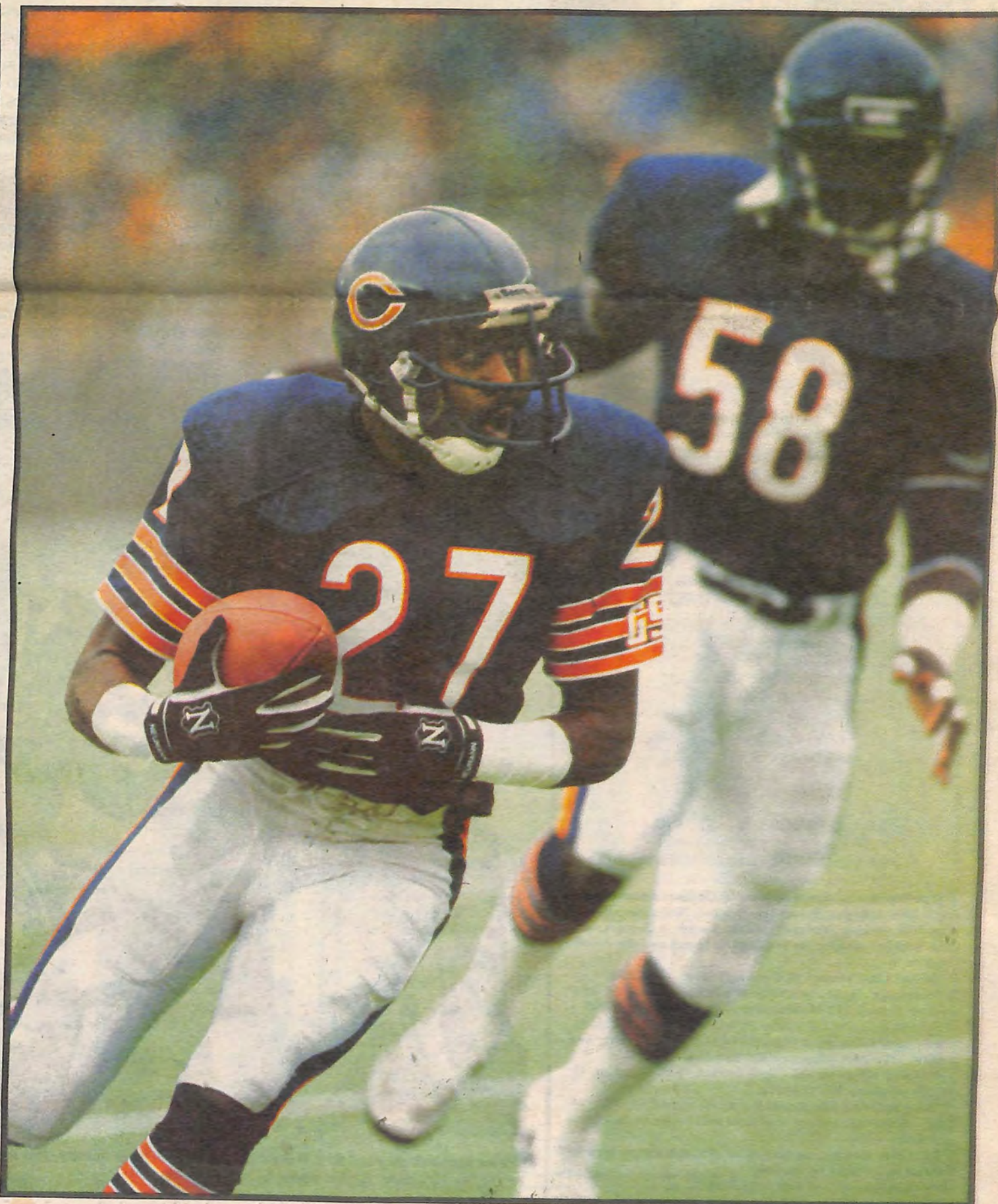
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A newspaper devoted exclusively
to the Chicago Bears and the NFL
Vol. 11, No. 19 December 8, 1986

On the cover...

Cornerback Mike Richardson, who has not had a touchdown pass thrown against him this year, returns one of his six interceptions he has this season. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



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Commentary



By
Doug
Buffone



Turnovers are a concern

The Bear defense had another great day Sunday against Pittsburgh and they escaped with another win. But Chicago will have to cut down on its turnovers before the luck runs out.

The Bears have had problems with turnovers their last two games. And it nearly cost them a game again on Sunday.

Chicago blew one almost sure touchdown when Walter Payton fumbled near the goal line, marking the second week in a row the Bears have done that.

Mike Tomczak, who overall played well against the Steelers, had two costly interceptions. One led to a Pittsburgh field goal and the other killed a drive inside the Pittsburgh 30-yard line.

On the other side of that, the Bears also aren't taking advantage of the turnovers the defense gives them.

In the first quarter Chicago's defense intercepted a pass and gave the offense the ball at its own 47-yard line. That drive ended in a missed field goal.

Right after that the defense recovered a fumble at Pittsburgh's 32-yard line. All the offense could do was move the ball 10 yards and settle for a field goal.

The Bears need to take better advantage of those opportunities. If they would have done it against the Steelers, they would have had them on the ropes early.

Not to get too down on the offense, it did show some signs of coming around by putting together a couple of nice drives.

Just before the end of the third quarter Chicago start-

ed a drive that lasted 9:06, went 96 yards in 17 plays and ended with a touchdown to tie the score. That was one of the most impressive drives Chicago has had all season and a reason to have confidence in Tomczak. He can lead the Bears.

The Bears just have to realize, as I'm sure they do, that with a ball-control offense you can't turn the ball over. They can be deadly if you do it too much. If Chicago can get away from them it can easily be putting 14 more points on the board every game.

Another important factor in the game was Mike Ditka's decision to take the wind instead of the ball in the overtime period. By choosing which goal to defend instead of taking the ball the Bears got the wind at their backs.

You could see what kind of problems Pittsburgh's Mark Malone was having throwing against the wind. And kicking into the wind was probably even worse. The players also said the wind was at its worse during the overtime period, so having it at their backs had to be a significant factor.

Aside from those things some individuals stood out again. The tight ends, Emery Moorehead and Tim Wrightman, had great games exploiting the Steelers' man-to-man coverage. And Thomas Sanders and Neal Anderson made some nice plays coming out of the backfield.

You could see some good improvement in the offense during this game. But the most important thing is the need for the Bears to cut down on their turnovers and capitalize on their opponents' mistakes.



Wilber Marshall (58) and Otis Wilson led the Bear defense Sunday, this time hitting Pittsburgh's Earnest Jackson before he got too far. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

Bears need OT to clinch division title

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

CHICAGO — You have to wonder how long the Chicago Bears can get away with this.

On Sunday against Pittsburgh at Soldier Field the Bears missed two field goals, had a field goal blocked, fumbled inside the Steelers' five-yard line and threw two interceptions and still won, 13-10 in overtime.

The victory clinched the Bears' third straight NFC Central Division title and was their second overtime victory this season. Chicago beat the Eagles 13-10 in overtime the second week of the season.

Chicago has now won its last three games by a total of eight points. And for the third week in a row the defense held its opponent to 10 points.

About all the miscues Bears coach Mike Ditka said, "Those are critical plays. It's almost like you're not supposed to win."

Ditka also had some telling statistics about the offense. The Bears are scoring a touchdown just once every 32 plays this year. And on the average the offense has driven 165 yards for each score this year.

"If we can score 17 or 24 points a game we should be in pretty good shape," Ditka said. The offense should be scoring that much, but mistakes have prevented it.

And Sunday was no exception.

When the offense put together its best drive of the first half it still came away empty. Midway through the second quarter quarterback Mike Tomczak started the Bears at their own 21 and came out throwing, completing three passes to Tim Wrightman for 46 yards while moving Chicago to Pittsburgh's seven-yard line.

Payton's fumble stops drive

But when Walter Payton ran the ball up the middle to the three he fumbled, and Anthony Henton recovered for the Steelers in the end zone.

Chicago's next mistake came just before the end of the first half. Pittsburgh's only score of the half came with 12 seconds left when Gary Anderson connected on a 30-yard field goal attempt to tie the score, 3-3.

The kick was set up when Tomczak had a pass intercepted by Bryan Hinkle at the Bears' 34-yard line. But the Steelers were moved back 15 yards by a personal foul penalty against Keith Gary when he did his Charles Martin imitation against Tomczak.

After Tomczak threw the interception and the whistle blew the play dead, Gary hit Tomczak from behind and knocked him to the ground. The hit came just after Louis Lipps was knocked unconscious by a left hook by Otis Wilson.

"I was protecting myself," Wilson said about the hit. "It was a crack-block and I just reacted. I put my arm up there and just ran through him. All I did was stop him from cracking me."

When told that Wilson hit Lipps with a forearm Ditka, who didn't see the play, said, "That's chicken- --. If you have to play that way you ought to turn in your pads."

Later in the third quarter Tomczak ended another good Bear drive with an interception. After throwing passes of 21 yards to Payton and 13 yards to Wrightman, Tomczak was intercepted by Lupe Sanchez at the Steelers' 23-yard line.

Singletary comes up with interception

Pittsburgh then moved deep into Bears territory before William Perry deflected a Mark Malone pass that was intercepted by Mike Singletary at Chicago's eight.

But a late hit penalty against Wilson moved the ball back to Chicago's own four.

Starting the fourth quarter down 10-3 Chicago then drove 96 yards on 17 plays to score on a 3-yard run by Payton with 8:00 left to tie the score at 10. Payton gained 42 yards on 10 carries during the 9:06 long drive.

Payton also converted a key first down on the drive when he dove over the middle on a 4th and 1 at the Steelers' 40-yard line.

The Bears started their last drive in regulation at their own 37 with 6:55 left. They kept the ball on the ground while moving the ball to Pittsburgh's 11-yard line.

Then with 55 seconds left Butler came in to kick a 28-yard field goal. But the ball hit the left upright and missed, sending the game into overtime.

"It goes down as a miss. I'm not going to blame it on the wind," Butler said, referring to a strong 17-mile an hour wind that caused a lot of problems for the quarterbacks and kickers.

In the overtime period the Bears won the toss and elected to keep the wind at their backs and kick the ball. On the kickoff Butler put the ball in the end zone, and the Steelers started at their own 20.

That put the pressure on the Bear defense, but it was ready for it. "We had to do something. It was a do or die situation," Singletary said.



Wilber Marshall came up with this key sack of Pittsburgh's Mark Malone in the fourth quarter of Sunday's 13-10 overtime win by Chicago at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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Bears-Steelers Official Statistics

SCORING SUMMARY

Pittsburgh Steelers	0	3	7	0	0	10
Chicago Bears	3	0	0	7	3	13

Chicago Bears, 1, 6:51, Butler, 39-yard field goal, 0-3
 Pittsburgh Steelers, 2, 14:53, Anderson, 30-yard field goal, 3-3
 Pittsburgh Steelers, 3, 4:35, Gothard, 12-yard pass from Newsome, Anderson kick, 10-3

Chicago Bears, 4, 7:00, Payton, 3-yard run, Butler kick, 10-10
 Chicago Bears, 5, 3:55, Butler, 42-yard field goal, 10-13

Attendance: 61,425; tickets distributed: 66,030; unused: 4,605; time: 3:23
 Weather: Cloudy, windy, cold, humidity 65%; temperature 40 degrees; wind and direction east at 17 mph

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Steelers	Bears
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	18	25
By Rushing	4	11
By Passing	12	13
By Penalty	2	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	4-14	2-12
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-1	2-2
TOTAL NET YARDS	291	406
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times passing)	66	76
Av. Gain per Off. Play	4.4	5.3
NET YARDS RUSHING	132	171
Total Rushing Plays	35	46
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	3.8	3.7
NET YARDS PASSING	159	235
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	1-7	0-0
Gross Yds. Passing	166	235
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	30-14-2	30-19-2
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	5.1	7.8
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	6-39.8	3-33.3
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	97	82
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	2-16	3-18
No. and Yds. KO Returns	2-71	3-48
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	2-10	2-16
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	6-83	5-36
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	1-1	1-1
TOUCHDOWNS	1	1
Rushing	0	1
Passing	1	0
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	1-1	1-1
FG MADE — ATT.	1-2	2-5
TIME OF POSSESSION	24:52	39:03

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Pittsburgh Steelers

	Net	Long	TD
RUSHING	Att. Yds. Avg.	Gain	
Abercrombie	12 39 3.3	15	0
Jackson	18 76 4.2	18	0
Malone	1 0 0.0	0	0
Erenberg	4 17 4.3	17	0

	TKD	Had
PASSING	Att. Comp. Yds. Yds. TD LG Int.	
Malone	29 13 154 177 0 21 2	
Newsome	1 1 12 0/0 1 12 0	

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Lipps	2	18	11	0
Abercrombie	2	17	11	0
Jackson	1	12	12	0
Thompson	1	15	15	0
Stallworth	4	54	21	0
Erenberg	2	22	11	0
Gothard	1	12	12	1
Sweeney	1	16	16	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
Hinkle	1	6	6	0
Sanchez	1	4	4	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Newsome	6	239	39.8	2	1	45

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Woods	2	0	16	9	0
*Downed	1				

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS				
Sanchez	2	71	48	0

	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
FUMBLES					
Malone	1	0	-7	0	

Chicago Bears

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING					
Payton	31	90	2.9	9	1
Sanders	3	19	6.3	12	0
Suhey	3	5	1.7	4	0
Anderson	3	20	6.7	11	0
Tomczak	4	26	6.5	16	0
Thomas	2	11	5.5	9	0

	TKD	Had
PASSING	Att. Comp. Yds. Yds. TD LG Int.	
Tomczak	30 19 235 0/0 0 27 2	

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Ortego	2	32	27	0
Gault	3	38	16	0
Payton	5	48	21	0
Moorehead	3	41	20	0
Wrightman	5	67	22	0
Suhey	1	9	9	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
Gayle	1	13	13	0
Singletary	1	3	3	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Buford	3	100	33.3	0	0	41

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Barnes	3	1	18	7	0
*Touchback	2				

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS				
Gentry	2	41	22	0
Anderson	1	7	7	0

	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
FUMBLES					
Payton	1	0	0	0	

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

(Unofficial)

Pittsburgh Steelers

	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Williams	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
Woods	5	2	0	0	0	0	0
Swain	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sanchez	3	0	0	0	1	1	0
Shell	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little	10	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hinkle	6	1	0	0	1	0	0

	Winston	Cole	Merriweather	Nelson	Dunn	Gary	Willis	Henton	Erenberg	Jackson	Gothard
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Forced Fumbles: Hinkle 1

Chicago Bears-

	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Duerson	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gayle	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Jackson	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bell	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richardson	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fencik	7	1	0	0	0	0	0
Singletary	3	0	0	0	1	2	0
Wilson	4	2	0	0	0	0	1
Marshall	8	0	1	-7	0	0	0
Perry	7	0	0	0	0	1	0
McMichael	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Dent	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hampton	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
Ortego	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gentry	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notebook

Continued From Page 6

• **THE BEARS MADE** one other roster move last Friday. Brian Cabral was placed on the injured reserve list again because of a shoulder injury. Cabral played just two games after coming off the injured list before going back on it.

Guard Stefan Humphries, who had been on injured reserve since Aug. 23 because of a foot injury, was called up to take Cabral's place. The Bears need help at the guard positions with Mark Bortz (ankle) and Tom Thayer (toe) both hurting.

• **GOING INTO SUNDAY'S GAME** Dennis Gentry led the NFL in kickoff returns with a 31.3 average on 15 returns. He is the only returner in the NFL with an average of over 30 yards.

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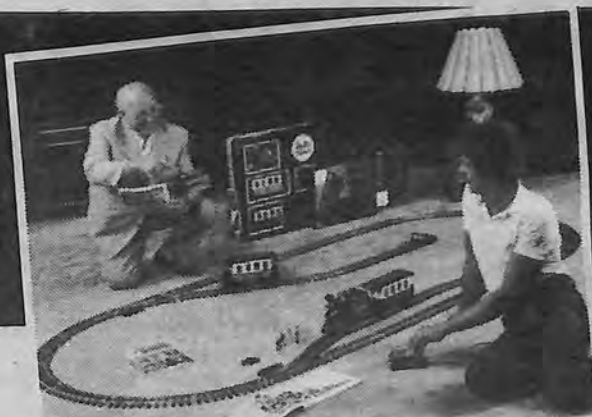
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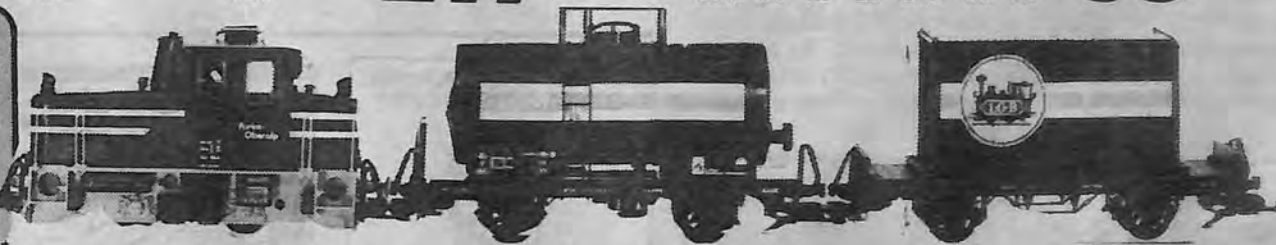
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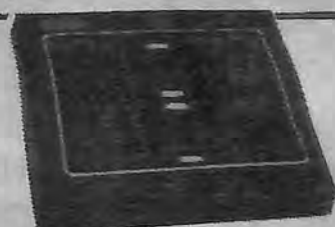


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Tomczak's in as McMahon sets surgery

Can Mike Tomczak lead the Bears to a Super Bowl victory this year?

Will Doug Flutie get a chance at the starting quarterback job before the regular season is over?

Will Jim McMahon be the Bears' starting quarterback when the 1987 season begins?

Those are just some of the questions Bear fans are asking themselves after McMahon announced last Tuesday he will undergo shoulder surgery Dec. 16.



Bear Notebook

McMahon flew to Los Angeles to be examined by Dr. Frank Jobe, the noted orthopedic surgeon, last Tuesday. After the examination McMahon said Jobe believes there may be another tear in his right shoulder besides the rotator cuff tear discovered Nov. 11.

Jobe scheduled arthroscopic surgery on McMahon's shoulder for Dec. 16 in Los Angeles. The surgery means McMahon will miss the remainder of the regular season this year and the playoffs. But McMahon is confident that after rehabilitation he will be back by the time next season begins.

Bears coach Mike Ditka announced Wednesday that Tomczak would start against Pittsburgh and, for now at least, will be the Bears' quarterback the rest of the season. But Flutie has been taking more snaps with the offense

lately in practice, though that is for insurance should Tomczak or Steve Fuller get injured.

Ditka said he would like to get Fuller or Flutie into some games before the end of the season, but emphasized he wants to put them in a game in "a positive way." That means he wants to put the other quarterbacks in because the Bears are winning, not because he sees the need to replace Tomczak if the Bears are losing.

"They know they don't have Jim, now they know what they have to do," Ditka said.

Tomczak said he and the other two quarterbacks met with Ditka about the situation. Tomczak said he didn't want to have to look over his shoulder if things aren't going well.

"I like to think if I made a mistake out there I'm not going to get pulled right away," Tomczak said.

"I don't think anybody has to look over their shoulder," Ditka said. "If you do your job you have no reason to look anywhere but forward."

For Tomczak, knowing McMahon's situation for the rest of the year helps his mind. "It's more of a psychological difference, not only for me but for the other guys on the team," he said. "It's an advantage for me to get four games under my belt before the playoffs start."

Ditka doesn't see the fate of his team resting on one quarterback. "We have one quarterback, but it's in the form of three," he said.

The thing Ditka doesn't want to see the offense doing under Tomczak is turning the ball over. "No turnovers, that's the main thing," he said. "If we can avoid the turnovers we'll do all right."

As for McMahon doing all right after his surgery, Ditka

said that depends a lot on how well he does in his recovery program.

"He's gonna have to go on a disciplined, regimented conditioning program second to none," he said.

McMahon's surgery will help heal his rotator cuff injury and determine if there is a second tear in the shoulder. Should there be a second tear the surgery also could either repair the tear or determine what needs to be done to repair it.

McMahon said his career is not in jeopardy because of his shoulder problems.

McMahon also said neither he nor Jobe could determine if the hit he received from Packer Charles Martin Nov. 23 caused any additional problems in the shoulder.

Martin was suspended by NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle for two games without pay because of the incident. Martin will lose about \$15,000 because of the suspension. However, Martin is appealing the suspension, so the suspension would not begin until after his hearing if he loses the appeal.

His appeal should be heard sometime this week.

It was the longest suspension for an onfield incident in Rozelle's 26 years as commissioner.

McMahon's agent, Steve Zucker, said legal action against Martin is a possibility.

● **THE BEARS PLACED** McMahon on injured reserve last week and re-signed safety Maurice Douglass to take his place. Douglass was an 8th round draft pick this year, but was released before the season started. Ditka said he brought back Douglass because the Bears will need help on special teams.

Continued Page 4



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A rivalry going downhill

The Bears-Packers rivalry has been marred by cheap shots since Mike Ditka and Forrest Gregg first squared off against each other in 1984.



In 1982, the National Football League player strike ended the longest continuous rivalry in pro football history. The Bears and Packers did not play that season and it might have been a good idea.

In 1983, hostilities resumed under coaches Mike Ditka of Chicago and Bart Starr of Green Bay. The Packers won 31-28 in Green Bay and lost 23-21 in Chicago in what turned out to be Starr's final game.

If Ditka ever could feel badly about a victory, that would be it. Whether it cost Starr his job or not, Ditka praised Starr as a class act and lamented his departure.

Then came Forrest Gregg. On the surface, there is nothing to suggest why Mike Ditka and Forrest Gregg should be like oil and water. They played together for a season with the Dallas Cowboys — side by side, in fact — when Ditka was the tight end and Gregg was the offensive tackle.

Also, they played together in several Pro Bowls prior to becoming teammates. Furthermore, neither man makes a public habit of badmouthing the other. To the contrary, Ditka has stated flat out he has nothing against Gregg and Gregg has complimented the Bears often, calling them a great, "well-coached" football team.

But something is fishy here.

When Charles Martin, wearing a towel with a "hit list" of Bear numbers on it, ambushed Jim McMahon and tossed him to the Soldier Field turf, it marked a new low in unfriendly relations.

Evidence suggests things were headed in that direction for some time and will continue that way regardless of Commissioner Pete Rozelle's disciplinary action.

McMahon threatens to carry a knife

After last season, Ditka threatened to travel to Green Bay "with baseball bats."

After this season, McMahon threatened to strap a small knife to his person to ward off the green and yellow enemy.

Such rhetoric apparently has an effect on certain minds north of the Illinois border.

It is difficult to believe all this animosity stemmed from one isolated preseason incident in 1984 when Ditka and Gregg met as coaches for the first time. It turned out to be the last Bear-Packer preseason game.

Shortly before halftime, with the Bears running out the

clock, Gregg called a time out. Ditka thought it was an unnecessary and dangerous thing to do, especially in a meaningless exhibition.

Not one to hide his thoughts, Ditka told Gregg his feelings on the way to the locker room. Gregg apparently did not appreciate Ditka's language and reportedly told his players: "You take care of the Bears; I'll take care of Ditka."

The teams split their series in 1984 without obvious incident, but the seeds of discontent were being sown. Each team felt the other talked too much.

"We call them the Green Bay Quackers," said Bears'



By
Don
Pierson

flanker Dennis McKinnon.

In 1985, the quips hit the fan.

Packers' offensive tackle Greg Koch made fun of Ditka's drunk driving conviction (which didn't make him any different from some of Ditka's own players, but nevertheless was unconventional pre-game hype).

In the first game of 1985, Ditka unveiled William "The Refrigerator" Perry as a battering ram at the goal line. Walter Payton scored twice as Perry turned Packer linebacker George Cumby into a runaway on national television.

Another incident out of camera range involved two Bears ganging up on Packer quarterback Lynn Dickey after Dickey had thrown an interception. The Bears did not sneak up behind Dickey, pick him up, and slam him to the ground after the play was dead. But they did attempt to block him — vigorously and perhaps a bit unnecessarily, but legally.

Martin may not know the difference

Perhaps Charles Martin couldn't tell the difference.

Martin indicted not only himself, but the Packer coaching staff for wearing his "hit list" towel and admitting he wanted to knock key Bear players out of the game, or at least "control" them.

"Somebody had to know about it," Ditka said of the list.

"I guess (Martin) ain't in no position to win the Nobel Peace Prize for intelligence," said Bears' defensive tackle Steve McMichael.

Martin may have been tutored by teammate Ken Stills. It was Stills who leveled Bears' fullback Matt Suhey with a vicious hit after a whistle in the Bears' game in Green Bay last year.

Or, Martin may have been tutored by Gregg, who has revealed an astonishing ignorance in matters of fair play.

"We don't teach dirty football," Gregg said.

That is believable. But listen to this:

"It (Martin's body-slam) was very similar to the thing that happened with Perry and Lomax, a very similar thing," Gregg said.

Gregg was referring to the Bear-Cardinal exhibition game when Perry was fined \$2,000 for body-slammng Cardinal quarterback Neil Lomax. The difference, to refresh Gregg's memory, was that Lomax had the ball. He was attempting to pass. Perry was sacking him. Perry wasn't even penalized, although Ditka admitted he should have been.

Martin grabbed McMahon from behind and spiked him after McMahon had thrown an interception. Confusion is Martin's only sane defense. He thought he had scored and McMahon was the ball.

Gregg continued: "He (Martin) was ejected and Perry wasn't. I really don't know what the difference was there."

If Gregg doesn't know the difference, how can anyone expect Martin to know?

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RAMS by **TEN** over **COWBOYS**
Dallas is fading fast

BRONCOS by **SIX** over **CHIEFS**
KC another team that's fading

LIONS by **TWO** over **STEELERS**
Detroit will roll up the points

CHARGERS by **NINE** over **OILERS**
San Diego putting things together

FALCONS by 14 over **COLTS**
Atlanta will roll

SAINTS by **TWO** over **DOLPHINS**
New Orleans playing tough

VIKINGS by **TEN** over **PACKERS**
Green Bay not that much better

REDSKINS by **SEVEN** over **GIANTS**
NY will run into a wall

49ERS by **NINE** over **JETS**
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EAGLES by **THREE** over **CARDINALS**
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Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Chicago Bears



Tampa Bay Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
1	Donald Igwebuike	PK	5-9	185	25	2	Clemson
5	Frank Garcia	P	6-0	210	29	4	Arizona
8	Steve Young	QB	6-2	200	25	2	Brigham Young
17	Steve Deberg	QB	6-3	210	32	10	San Jose St.
21	Vito McKeever	DB	6-0	180	25	1	Florida
22	Rod Jones	DB	6-0	175	22	R	S. Methodist
23	Jeremiah Castille	DB	5-10	175	25	4	Alabama
26	Ricky Eason	DB	5-10	160	23	2	Florida
31	Craig Curry	DB	6-0	190	25	3	Texas
32	James Wilder	RB	6-3	225	28	6	Missouri
35	Pat Franklin	RB	6-1	230	23	R	SW Texas St.
36	Bobby Futrell	DB	5-11	190	24	1	Elizabeth City St.
41	Craig Swoope	DB	6-1	200	22	R	Illinois
44	Ivory Sully	DB	6-0	200	29	8	Delaware
46	Nathan Wonsley	RB	5-10	190	22	R	Mississippi
51	Chris Washington	LB	6-4	230	24	3	Iowa St.
52	Scot Brantley	LB	6-1	230	28	7	Florida
54	Ervin Randle	LB	6-1	250	24	2	Baylor
56	Jackie Walker	LB	6-5	245	23	R	Jackson St.
57	Keith Browner	LB	6-6	245	24	3	S. California
58	Jeff Davis	LB	6-0	230	26	5	Clemson
59	Kevin Murphy	LB	6-2	230	23	R	Oklahoma
60	Randy Grimes	C	6-4	270	26	4	Baylor
62	Sean Farrell	G	6-3	260	26	5	Penn St.
64	Greg Robinson	OT	6-5	285	23	R	Sacramento St.
66	George Yarno	OG	6-2	265	29	7	Washington St.
67	Karl Morgan	NT	6-1	255	25	3	UCLA
68	Rick Mallory	G	6-2	265	26	2	Washington
71	Bob Nelson	NT	6-3	265	27	1	Miami
72	Rob Taylor	OT	6-6	290	25	1	Northwestern
73	Ron Heller	OT	6-6	280	24	3	Penn State
75	Kevin Kellin	DE	6-6	265	26	1	Minnesota
76	David Logan	NT	6-2	250	30	8	Pittsburgh
77	J.D. Maarleveld	OT	6-6	300	25	R	Maryland
80	David Williams	WR	6-3	190	23	R	Illinois
81	Phil Freeman	WR	5-11	185	23	2	Arizona
82	Jerry Bell	TE	6-5	230	27	5	Arizona St.
83	Willie Gillespie	WR	5-9	170	25	1	Tennessee-Chat.
84	Leonard Harris	WR	5-8	155	25	1	Texas Tech
86	Calvin Magee	TE	6-3	240	23	2	Southern
87	Gerald Carter	WR	6-1	190	29	7	Texas A&M
88	Jeff Spek	TE	6-3	240	26	1	San Diego St.
90	Rion Holmes	DE	6-4	255	23	2	Washington
98	Tyrone Keys	DE	6-7	270	27	4	Mississippi St.

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Chicago Bears Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
2	Doug Flutie	QB	5-9	176	24	R	Boston College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	29	8	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	195	24	2	Georgia
8	Mauri Buford	P	6-1	191	26	5	Texas Tech
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	24	2	Ohio State
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas A & M
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	25	4	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	24	3	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	DB	6-0	186	22	R	Washington
25	Todd Bell	S	6-1	205	27	5	Ohio State
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	28	7	Penn State
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	25	4	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	27	5	Baylor
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	26	5	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	12	Jackson St.
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	21	R	Florida
36	Maurice Douglass	DB	5-11	200	21	R	Kentucky
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	32	11	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	25	2	SMU
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	27	6	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Michigan State
52	Larry Rubens	C	6-2	262	27	3	Montana State
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	28	7	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G/C	6-4	261	24	2	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	24	3	California
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	25	4	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	27	6	Iowa
68	Paul Blair	OT	6-4	295	22	R	Oklahoma State
70	Henry Waehtler	DT	6-5	275	27	5	Nebraska
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	308	23	2	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstein	DE	6-3	254	32	12	Penn State
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	26	4	Pittsburgh
75	Stefan Humphries	G	6-3	268	24	3	Michigan
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	28	7	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	280	28	6	USC
79	Kurt Becker	G	6-5	267	27	5	Michigan
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	26	2	UCLA
81	Lew Barnes	WR	5-8	163	23	R	Oregon
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-1	183	25	4	Tennessee
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	32	10	Colorado
89	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	180	22	2	McNeese State
90	Al Harris	LB	6-5	253	29	7	Arizona St.
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	25	4	Tenn State
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	28	8	Arkansas

Injured Reserve — OT Andy Frederick, RB Calvin Murray, TE Riley Walton, LB Dan Rains, QB Jim McMahon, LB Brian Cabral

Physically Unable to Perform — WR Dennis McKinnon, CB Leslie Frazier

Non-Football Injury — WR Glenn Kozlowski

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazor, Greg Landry, Jim LaRue, John Levra, Dave McGinnis, Johnny Roland, Dick Stanfel, Vince Tobin



QUARTERBACK STEVE YOUNG

Special to the Bear Report

When the Buccaneers hosted the Bears on November 9 at Tampa Stadium, serious injuries outweighed the final score: a 23-3 loss to the defending Super Bowl champs.

On the opening kickoff, rookie running back Nathan Wonsley sustained a partial cervical dislocation (broken neck). He was not paralyzed, but underwent surgery to fuse the vertebrae together. His football future is in doubt.

In the second quarter tight end Jerry Bell sustained a dislocated fracture of his right ankle. He was casted immediately and is out for the season. Running back James Wilder also was injured in that game (bruised ribs), but has since recovered. He rushed for 130 yards against Detroit two weeks ago.

"I thought we did the best job under the circumstances," Tampa Bay head coach Leeman Bennett said after the loss to the Bears. "They are a great football team and we did a good job of fighting them."

Bennett's team has been out of the playoff race for weeks, and not surprisingly he's had trouble keeping his team motivated for each game. After the romp by the Bears, the Bucs suffered consecutive blowouts administered by Green Bay (31-7), Detroit (38-17) and Minnesota (45-13). The loss to the Vikings last Sunday drops

Tampa's record to 2-11. But Bennett isn't ready to call it a year.

"Our defense which is so young, with four new starters in the defensive backfield, will get better. On offense, (quarterback) Steve Young continues to grow in spite of the changing personnel around him. We see the remaining games as an opportunity for some of our young players to go to school, to learn about the NFL. It will prove valuable for us in our growth," Bennett says.

Young is gaining experience

One player who has been growing in experience this year is Young. Even though the Buccaneers rank 25th in the NFL in passing (23rd overall in offense), Young is having a good season. Through 12 games, he ranked 5th in NFC passing with a 72.5 rating. His seven interceptions are the fewest of any starter in the conference.

Another offensive player having a good year for the Bucs is wide receiver Gerald Carter. Through 12 games, Carter led the team in receiving with 532 yards on 35 receptions, a 15.2 average.

"I've been the guy they have to look up to," says Carter. "I always work hard. I hope it shows the other players that if you work hard, good things will happen to you."

Despite his personal success, Carter says the team's overall performance is a major disappointment.

"I had no idea we'd be in this situation when the season started. I thought we were improved. I still think so. But we keep making silly mistakes and we lose," he says.

When Carter isn't catching the ball, Wilder is running with it. Through 12 games, Wilder has gained 160 yards on 624 carries, a 3.9 average. Tampa's running game is a respectable 7th in the league. The Bucs have been averaging 125 yards per game on the ground.

Injuries mean new players

With all of the injuries on offense, Tampa has added some new players in recent weeks. Among them are running backs Bobby Howard and Pat Franklin. The Bucs also re-signed halfback Ron Springs, who had been cut earlier in the season.

While the offense has done well at times, Tampa's defense has been awful. The unit ranks last in the NFL, allowing 402 yards per game. They were 25th against the pass and 28th against the rush. Lack of a pass rush has been a big problem for Tampa Bay. Through 12 games, the Buc defense had recorded only 15 sacks. The defense has also suffered for lack of interceptions, recording only 10.

A few of the Buccaneers who have been getting the job done on defense include linebackers Jeff Davis (110 tack-

Continued Page 15



WIDE RECEIVER JERRY BELL



RUNNING BACK JAMES WILDER

Lineups

Tampa Bay

Chicago

Offense

WR 81 Phil Freeman, 84 Leonard Harris
 LT 72 Rob Taylor, 77 J.D. Maarleveld
 LG 66 George Yarno, 68 Rick Mallory
 C 60 Randy Grimes, 66 George Yarno
 RG 62 Sean Farrell, 68 Rick Mallory
 RT 73 Ron Heller, 77 J.D. Maarleveld
 TE 86 Calvin Magee, 82 Jerry Bell
 WR 87 Gerald Carter, 80 David Williams
 QB 8 Steve Young, 17 Steve DeBerg
 RB 32 James Wilder, 46 Nathan Wonsley

WR 83 Willie Gault, 89 Keith Ortego
 LT 74 Jim Covert, 68 Paul Blair
 LG 62 Mark Bortz, 79 Kurt Becker
 C 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 RG 57 Tom Thayer, 79 Kurt Becker
 RT 78 Keith Van Horne, 68 Paul Blair
 TE 87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman
 WR 89 Keith Ortego, 29 Dennis Gentry
 RB 34 Walter Payton, 20 Tom Sanders
 FB 26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas
 QB 18 Mike Tomczak, 4 Steve Fuller

Defense

LE 98 Tyrone Keys, 71 Bob Nelson
 NT 76 David Logan, 67 Karl Morgan
 RE 90 Ron Holmes, 71 Bob Nelson
 LOLB 57 Keith Browner, 56 Jackie Walker
 LILB 58 Jeff Davis, 54 Ervin Randle
 RILB 52 Scot Brantley, 54 Ervin Randle
 ROLB 51 Chris Washington, 59 Kevin Murphy
 LC 23 Jeremiah Castille, 21 Vito McKeever
 RC 22 Rod Jones, 36 Bobby Futrell
 SS 41 Craig Swoope, 31 Craig Curry
 FS 31 Craig Curry, 44 Ivory Sully

LE 99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstine
 LT 76 Steve McMichael, 70 Henry Waechter
 RT 72 William Perry, 70 Henry Waechter
 RE 95 Richard Dent, 73 Mike Hartenstine
 LLB 55 Otis Wilson, 59 Ron Rivera
 MLB 50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera
 RLB 58 Wilber Marshall, 90 Al Harris
 LC 27 Mike Richardson, 24 Vestee Jackson
 RC 24 Vestee Jackson, 48 Reggie Phillips
 SS 22 Dave Duerson, 25 Todd Bell
 FS 45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle

Specialists

P 5 Frank Garcia
 PK 1 Donald Igwebuike
 H 17 Steve DeBerg, 8 Steve Young
 PC 66 George Yarno, 86 Calvin Magee
 KC 66 George Yarno, 86 Calvin Magee
 PR 36 Bobby Futrell, 84 Leonard Harris
 KR 81 Phil Freeman, 84 Leonard Harris

PK 6 Kevin Butler
 P 8 Maury Buford
 PR 81 Lew Barnes, 89 Keith Ortego
 KR 29 Dennis Gentry, 20 Thomas Sanders
 KC 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 PC 52 Larry Rubens, 63 Jay Hilgenberg
 H 4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak

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Offense hasn't taken advantage of field position



Once inside the 20-yard line this season, the Bear offense has had problems getting the ball in the end zone. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

When the Bears expected Jim McMahon to turn the offense around against Green Bay, 360 degrees wasn't what they had in mind.

It was to be a joyous day. With McMahon back in the offense, the offense would rejoin the Bears, like a runner who had taken the subway on a marathon course. All would be forgiven. The defense could concentrate on merely stopping opponents, not outscoring them.

It was bad enough that the game didn't work out that way. The next day, news came that McMahon may miss the rest of the season. There was no use hoping even that he'd play better next time because he'd be healthier next time. The Bears were looking at the prospect of considering their 13-10 victory in Atlanta a blowout.

"It's going to take this kind of football for us," coach Mike Ditka said even before the bad news about McMahon's shoulder injury. "It's not going to be easy, but that doesn't mean it can't be done. When a team is playing as hard as our defense is, I think we can accomplish anything we want to."

Maybe so, but the defense already was doing everything short of lining the field and putting tarp on it. And the Bears were winning squeakers against bad teams. If the defense is going to carry its share of the load in the playoffs, it will have to practice more on blocking after interceptions.

The offense doesn't have to do that much, really. With the Bears' defense, all on offense needs to do is take advantage of the frequent times it gets good field position and try not to make things harder for the defense.

Through the Green Bay game, it wasn't even doing that. Turnovers make things harder for the defense. The Bears lost five against Green Bay, making it 31 for 12 games. They lost that many in 16 games last season.

Three-down, 30-second possessions make things harder for the defense. A running game makes it easier. So why did the Bears try pass plays on 14 of the last 15 plays before McMahon left the Packer game? "I was trying to establish the pass," Ditka said, forgetting he had long since established the Bears couldn't pass.

Nor was the offense taking advantage of its breaks from the defense. The Bears don't have to pass much to score when they get the ball past their 40-yard line, and they get it there pretty often. They got it there often enough in the Tampa Bay, Atlanta and Green Bay games to waste 11 straight opportunities before Kevin Butler's game-winning field goal against the Packers.

In the first four games, the Bears averaged 3.6 points per possession when they got the ball within 60 yards of the opponent's goal line. In the next eight, they averaged

2.0. And it wasn't just because McMahon was absent. He missed two of those first four games, remember. And in the next eight, they averaged 1.7 points with McMahon and 2.4 without him.

Offense hurting in plus territory

The picture gets grimmer as the Bears get closer to the goal line. They've approached it as though it's flanked with guard towers.

An average team scores touchdowns more than half the times it crosses an opponent's 20-yard line. It comes away with about 4.5 points per visit beyond the 20.

In the Bears first four games, they scored touchdowns

By
Kevin
Lamb



on 56 percent of those visits and averaged 4.9 points. In their next eight games, their touchdown rate was 21 percent and their average score was 3.0 points. The figures with and without McMahon were almost identical.

"It doesn't make sense to me, either," tight end Tim Wrightman said. "We're running the ball pretty well. We should be scoring when we get down there."

"Clearly, we have to get better," tight end Emery Moorehead said. "You don't get to the Super Bowl — you don't get to the playoffs — with just a defense."

The explanations for this goal-line stumbling were generally as hollow as a toy flute. "Execution" was the reason players kept giving. In other words, the plays weren't working. That's like blaming a flood on water.

"Usually, when we explain things to you guys, we're saying the same things the coaches have told us," Wrightman said. "The coaches haven't really said much about this. They haven't come out and said, 'You're doing this wrong.'"

They couldn't put their fingers on it, either. They didn't change practice schedules to work more on plus territory, their term for inside the 20.

"It's been a multitude of things," offensive coordinator Ed Hughes said. "We've had a couple penalties that moved us back. We've had breakdowns on some plays. 'There's been good defense. Sometimes the pass protection doesn't hold up.'"

Defenses change inside the 20

But why did the Bears save these blunders for near the goal line? How can a team look like a machine driving 60 yards and suddenly fall apart? It's not as though the rubber band was snapping. The machine was good enough to rank second in NFL rushing.

Things change inside the 20, though. The field becomes shorter. Defenses have less room to cover, so their alignments change. So the offensive plays change.

Ditka suggested those plays might be asking too much of the players. "Maybe where I'm wrong is I assumed we should beat them all the time, and you can't beat them all the time," he says. "I think that's where the execution breaks down."

Then against Green Bay, he ordered a handoff to William Perry, who fumbled. "Silly call," he said.

The shortened field might hurt the Bears more than other teams because of Willie Gault's impact on the offense. Near midfield, his speed outside creates more space for running plays and short passes. "But down there, he doesn't have far enough to run to worry them," Hughes said. "They can cover everybody tighter."

Defenses can blitz more, too. That's how they "bend but don't break." They don't gamble when the risk is a 20-yard touchdown, but not when it's an 80-yard touchdown. If they blitz well, they can fill all the running lanes.

"They'll give you different looks and different slants," center Jay Hilgenberg said. "That's when they want to put the pressure on you." When the Falcons shifted linebackers to the Bears' strong side, he said, "We were outmanned on a lot of the plays."

If the Bears had scored when Perry fumbled early in the game, McMahon said, "It could have been a different game." With a lead, the defense can take more chances. Its big plays can become padding for routs instead of margins of victories.

"It's time now to start putting teams away," Moorehead said even before the Packer game. "When you're keeping games close like that, you let teams build confidence and momentum on you. We kept Atlanta in the game for a long time. We've done that a lot this year. We haven't had that killer instinct we had a year ago on offense."

The NFL: Love it or leave it

Only night owls and American werewolves were still fresh when Nov. 17's Monday night 14-6 Washington victory over San Francisco finally ended Tuesday morning in the nation's capital.

The time of the game was three hours and 53 minutes, the longest in Monday night history. The previous day Denver and

The Dolphins ranked first in the NFL in passing, the Jets ranked last in pass defense. The Dolphins ranked last in rushing offense, the Jets ranked first in rushing defense.

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DRIVE TIME:

Kansas City fell behind the Broncos recently 28-0 even though its defense had allowed just one yard on scoring plays at that point.

Denver's first touchdown occurred when punter Chris Norman threw a touchdown

pass to Steve Wilson on a fake punt play. 7-0.

Then chief quarterback Bill Kenney fumbled attempting to pass. Andre Townsend scooped it up at the Kansas City three and rolled into the end zone. 14-0.

On the first play after the ensuing kickoff, the same thing happened again. This time Tony Colorito recovered at the one. Denver running back Gerald Willhite scored on the next play. 21-0.

Finally Willhite returned a Kansas City punt 70 yards for a touchdown. 28-0.

The final score was 38-17.

SPATTING IMAGE:

Indianapolis coach Rod Dowhower is fining defensive back Nesby Glasgow \$1,000 a game for "spatting."

Spatting is the process by which a player tapes his shoes all the way to the top of his socks. It violates Dowhower's dress

code. The fines started at \$25 a game early in the season and have escalated to \$1,000.

Dowhower said the tape could lead to injury. Glasgow disagrees. "Walter Payton's been doing it for a long time and he's missed one game in 12 seasons," Glasgow said.

ST. ELSEWHERE:

The play that brought Dallas back from a 21-10 deficit Nov. 16 against San Diego was designed by an assistant coach from a hospital bed.

Special teams coach Alan Lowry was suffering from phlebitis. So he had another Cowboy assistant bring tapes and a tape machine to his hospital room where he noticed the Chargers were susceptible to a rush up the middle.

The Cowboys won the game 24-21.

Continued Page 15

By
Brian
Hewitt



NFL Notebook

Kansas City played a three hour and 49 minute affair. The Patriots and Rams needed three hours and 37 minutes.

All of a sudden people are howling again about games that the NFL Competition Committee has been telling us should take three hours to complete. In fact, none of last week's games took less than three hours.

"The game is going longer because of the specialized nature," says Dallas general manager Tex Schramm, a member of the Competition Committee. "Teams do more things offensively and defensively."

"But you have to be careful about changing the rules so actual playing time is not taken away. Then all you're doing is sacrificing action for the sake of game length and that's not the idea at all."

"The thing I've found is there's no great objection from the fans as to the length of the football games. They hold their own destiny because they can either head for the car or turn the channel. If it's an exciting game, he stays. If not, he leaves. It's up to him."

There you have it. The NFL: Love it or leave it.

FORGET IT:

Asked how the Rams might forget their recent heartbreaking, last-second 30-28 loss to the Patriots, Ram guard Dennis Harrah said: "Amnesia is the only way I know of."

RYAN REDUX:

When Philadelphia coach Buddy Ryan and his Eagles left the Detroit training camp this summer after several informal scrimmages, he ripped the Lions, their facilities and their organization.

Before Detroit's 13-11 victory in Week 11, Lion coach Darryl Rogers read Ryan's quotes to his team before the game to make sure they hadn't forgotten.

They hadn't. They sacked Eagle quarterbacks 11 times after having only 16 in their first 10 games.

"Darryl read one quote where Buddy said our pass rush was weak, nonexistent in fact," said Lion offensive lineman Keith Dorney. "So I'd say the boys on the pass rush got a little excited about this one. I think we all did."

THE 'OH' ZONE:

This reported exchange between Miami quarterback Dan Marino and Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly as they walked off the field following the Nov. 16 34-24 Dolphins' victory:

Marino: "I'd like to throw against that zone defense all the time."

Kelly: "So would I."

PASS/FAIL:

It didn't take a genius to figure out how the Dolphins would test the Jets in Week 12 in Miami.

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Tomczak keeps undefeated tradition alive

by David Marran

Special to the Bear Report

When the subject of undefeated Bear quarterbacks is brought up, the first name that comes to mind is Jim McMahon.

That is the obvious choice because the Bears have won the last 23 games in which the "punky QB" has started. Because of his shoulder injury, McMahon's unbeaten streak is going to have to go on hold until 1987.

In the meantime, McMahon's backup, Mike Tomczak, is doing his best to keep the undefeated tradition alive.

"You keep talking about people's records at quarterback, Mike is 5-0 as a starter and that is not bad," said head coach Mike Ditka.

Tomczak notched his fifth straight win as a starter in last Sunday's 13-10 overtime victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers at Soldier Field.

In addition to the win over the Steelers, Tomczak has started against and defeated the Philadelphia Eagles, the Green Bay Packers, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Atlanta Falcons.

Against the Steelers, the second-year veteran out of Ohio State completed 19 of 30 passes for 235 yards and two interceptions.

Despite his impressive numbers, Tomczak finds it hard to grade his performance.

"That is for you guys (the media) to do," said Tomczak. "I never grade myself, the game is happening too fast. I'll grade myself after films tomorrow."

When those films are shown, Tomczak will probably get a pat on the back when the Bears' overtime drive is shown. On the initial play of the drive, Tomczak hit wide receiver Keith Ortego for 27 yards to put the Bears in position for the winning field goal.

"He (Ditka) just gave it to me," Tomczak said. "It was a very spontaneous call on his part. It was a quarterback pass where we brought Keith in and across the field behind the linebackers and in front of the secondary."

"I found him in there in the seam. It was a big play for us."

Ditka liked what he saw on that play.

"He threw it in the hole between the linebackers. He did a good job on that play," said the fifth-year coach.

Tomczak leads drive to tie game

Tomczak also engineered another important drive for the Bears on Sunday.

This one came at the end of the third quarter and at the beginning of the fourth quarter and gave the Bears a 10-10 tie with the Steelers.

The drive took 9:08, covered 96 yards and ended when running back Walter Payton scored from three yards out.

Tomczak's contribution to that key drive was four completions in five attempts for 40 yards. His biggest strike on that drive was a 12-yarder to tight end Emery Moorehead which put the Bears deep in Steeler territory.

"We needed it (the long drive)," Tomczak said. "When it boils down to it, we are a tough team. When we need a drive, we pull it out of the back of our heads. I don't know why — maybe it's magic or maybe it's fate."

Along with his undefeated streak, Tomczak resembled McMahon in at least two other aspects on Sunday.

The first came with 50 seconds left in the first half when Tomczak's pass for Ortego was intercepted at the Bears' 46-yard line by Pittsburgh linebacker Bryan Hinkle.

After Hinkle was tackled by Ortego, Tomczak took a late hit from the Steelers' Keith Gary. The Steelers were penalized 15 yards for unnecessary roughness and, as Mike Tomczak lay on the Soldier Field turf, most Bear fans remembered the hit McMahon took last week from Green Bay's Charles Martin.

"That was a nice shot," Tomczak said. "I felt it pretty good. I got up and started laughing because he cleaned my clock pretty well. That's part of the game, that's the NFL."

Ditka, Tomczak exchange words

The second way Tomczak resembled the injured McMahon in Sunday's game came after he threw his second interception of the day.

After he had come off the field, Tomczak followed Ditka up the sideline explaining his actions on the field.

"He (Ditka) said, 'You can't do that to us,'" Tomczak said. "I said we're playing pretty well right now but that interceptions really hurt us and a few other things we have to keep inside us."

Following that exchange, the usually reserved Tomczak, in classic McMahon fashion, waved off his coach as if to say "forget you."

"I was waving to my mom," explained Tomczak.

Ditka had a similar explanation for the exchange.

"I asked him if he was going to be in the card game tomorrow night," said Ditka.

Although Tomczak resembled McMahon in those aspects on the field, he knows and the offense knows he is not McMahon. However, Tomczak felt the offense adjusted well to him on Sunday.

"I think everyone responded well (without McMahon)," Tomczak said. "There is a job to be done out there. I was fired up. I think my confidence is going up a little bit."

Moorehead, who snared three of Tomczak's passes, also thinks Tomczak's confidence is on the upswing.

"He did very well today," said Moorehead. "The experience had to help him being in the ball game. When we needed the touchdown, we got the touchdown. When we needed to get into field-goal range, we got into field-goal range. He did about all you could do. In one game, he got a lot of experience."

And that experience has Tomczak feeling more confident about himself.

Overtime

Continued From Page 3

Said Wilson, "We knew defensively we had to go out there and stop them, and that's exactly what we did."

Steelers can't move the ball

The Bear defense didn't let the Steelers have a yard

and Pittsburgh punted on 4th down.

Chicago started its first possession in the overtime period at its own 49, and on the first play Tomczak completed a 27-yard pass to Keith Ortego to the Pittsburgh 24.

After three running plays on 4th and 10 Butler came in to kick a 42-yard field goal that won the game.

"You go up there and try to kick them all the same," Butler said. "Just aiming down the middle and trying to hit it."

"The wind changed around in there a couple times, but it was real bad at the end," Ditka said.

Despite the two interceptions Ditka said he was pleased with the play of Tomczak, who completed 19 of 30 passes for 235 yards. "Mike did a good job," he said. "Throwing in those conditions he threw very well. And he had a couple dropped on him."

"The wind's a big factor in Soldier Field," Tomczak said. "But I think everyone responded well. We had some good drives out there today but came away with no points."

"We worked our tight ends pretty well. They were playing them man-to-man, so they were able to come open real well today."

Wrightman caught five passes for 67 yards Sunday while the other tight end, Emery Moorehead, caught three passes for 41 yards.

"Mike loves to go to the tight ends and today we were able to be effective," Moorehead said. "One linebacker was taking us man-to-man and the other guy was rushing on the play. We saw that in the films and we had certain plays that we prepared for that defense."

Obviously they worked well as the tight ends had their biggest offensive output of the year.

Defense helps offense get started

The Bears' first score of the day came as a result of the defense's play, which doesn't surprise many people.

On Pittsburgh's third play of the game Malone's pass was tipped by John Stallworth and intercepted by Shaun Gayle at the Bear 34 and returned to Chicago's 47.

The offense came in and, of course, stalled at the Steelers' 40. Butler's 52-yard kick was no good, but that was all right. The defense would just set him up again.

On the next play when Pittsburgh took over at its own 35, Earnest Jackson and Malone fumbled the handoff and Wilson was there to recover the ball for the Bears.

This time the Bear offense moved 10 yards to the 22 before Butler kicked a 39-yard field goal to give Chicago a 3-0 first-quarter lead.

Pittsburgh took the lead on its first drive of the second half after moving to the Bears' 12-yard line. Anderson came in to kick a field goal but the snap was high. Holder Harry Newsome then scrambled and threw to Preston Gothard for the touchdown and a 10-3 lead.

That was all the points Chicago has been allowing lately, and it needed to hold its opponent to that again.

So with the division title wrapped up, the Bears can concentrate on tuning up for the playoffs.

"Now we just plug along," Ditka said. "Hopefully we can keep the band-aids on this team and get through the rest of the season."

And after the regular season is over, how long the Bears can keep winning like this is anybody's guess.



Pittsburgh's Dave Edwards celebrates as Kevin Butler looks down in despair after Butler missed a 28-yard field goal with 50 seconds left in Sunday's game. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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Hewitt

Continued From Page 13

NOTES AND QUOTES: Bear center Jay Hilgenberg on 40-year-old Falcon center Jeff Van Note: "He looks pretty good in a uniform, but when he takes that helmet off he looks like Moses." ... Washington defensive lineman Charles Mann before the Redskins' recent game against Dallas: "We're going to bury those suckers. If you cut a snake's head off, you have to bury it or else it will grow back." ... Before the Cardinals signed former Giant placekicker Eric Schubert in Week 12, Schubert was working for an automobile leasing company owned by Giant nose tackle Jim Burt making less than \$300 a week. ... Ram quarterback Jim Everett's quarterback rating after one game was a lofty 136.7. Everett doesn't have enough pass attempts to qualify for the official league stats. ... Cleveland executive vice-president Ernie Accorsi on Miami Heisman Trophy favorite Vinnie Testaverde: "He's one of the five best quarterback prospects I've seen in 25 years. Physically there's nothing at all you wouldn't give him an 'A' on." ... Eagle quarterback Randall Cunningham became Philadelphia's first 100-yard rusher this year with 113 against the Lions in Week 11. Cunningham is believed to be the first quarterback to rush for 100 yards since Denver's Norris Weese in 1976. Weese ran for 120 yards that year against the Bears. ... On three successive Sundays the Giants knocked quarterbacks Danny White, Ron Jaworski and Tommy Kramer out of the game.

Buccaneers

Continued From Page 10

les), Scot Brantley (95 tackles), Chris Washington (71 tackles, 3½ sacks) and Keith Browner (60 tackles, 4 sacks).

The defensive backfield has been silent for most of the year. Only cornerback Vito McKeever has more than one interception. He has two.

Special teams also have been a weak spot for the Bucs this year. Tampa is averaging only 5.5 on punt returns while allowing 8.9 per attempt. On kickoff returns, Tampa Bay is averaging 18.1 while allowing 20.5.

Cleveland, Cincinnati, Houston, the second Minnesota game and the Rams game. I predict the Bears will finish 13 and 3 and beat the Redskins in the NFC playoff game. Have fun with Flutie.

Sincerely,

George R. Berg, Jr.
H&S CO, USAFSB, Box 9807
APO NY 09742-4824

Gifford Should Be Replaced

Dear Editor,

After viewing the Nov. 3 game between the Rams and Bears, and the previous week's game between the Giants and Redskins, I am wondering if it's time for yet another change in announcers. Some of the statements made by Frank Gifford cause me to seriously wonder.

During the Redskin-Giant game, there was no doubt Gifford was an ex-giant! He made such statements as the Giants had the toughest defense in the NFL without a doubt. Did Frank forget the Bears are still in the NFL? Another statement he made was Joe Morris has to be the best running back in football. Did Frank hear a false rumor that Walter Payton had retired?

Then in the game of Nov. 3, Rams vs. Bears, all we heard was the name of Eric Dickerson come out of Frank's mouth. What a great running back he is and could easily be the best running back of all time. When Walter Payton's name was mentioned, Gifford acknowledged that Payton was a great running back, but

thought Jim Brown was the best running back by far to ever play the game. He reminded us that Brown gained his yards in a 14 game season, whereas Payton is using 16 game seasons to get his records. He also stated in his opinion Dickerson, Morris and several others had outstanding chances to be better than Payton in their careers.

The Bears certainly did not play a good game that night, but coming into that game, they had only one loss and are the defending Super Bowl Champions. They did not deserve the continual negative comments heaped on them by Gifford. But we Bear fans should not be surprised, we always get this from the Monday night T.V. crew.

Maybe after the season is over, ABC should seriously evaluate the ability of Frank Gifford as an announcer. May it's time for yet another change in the announcing booth of Monday Night Football? If so, can Frank be solely blamed? Anyone having to work beside Howard Cosell for all those years would be enough to scramble anyone's brains!

James Monarkas
Riverton, IL

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Jim McMahon sports the latest in winter wear at the Bears' game Sunday against Pittsburgh at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



Kevin Butler gets a pat on the head by Keith Van Horne after Butler made a 42-yard field goal in overtime Sunday, giving the Bears a 13-10 win. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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